

Bay Area Wide Food Drive Saturday

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Volunteers from six Bay Area food banks will be at Safeway stores on Saturday for a special, one-day food drive for needy families.

Customers will be asked to buy a \$10 prepared grocery bag containing tuna, peanut butter, cereal, canned vegetables, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese and instant mashed potatoes.

Safeway launched the grocery bag offering to make a donation easier for shoppers and to ensure food bank recipients receive good items.

"Food banks depend on the community to ensure we're able to meet the needs of our neighbors facing hunger throughout the Bay Area," said Michael Altfest, in a media release. He is communications manager for the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

"We see some of our greatest increase in need during the summer months when school is out of session and our clients struggle to provide three meals for their families each day. These donations will go a long way in making sure more families receive the nutritious food they deserve today."

The participating organizations are the Alameda County Community Food Bank, Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, San Francisco Food Bank, Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano Counties, Napa Valley Food Bank and Redwood Empire Food Bank.

According to Bay Area Food Banks, a collaboration of food banks, the demand for food assistance has increased by 45 percent since 2008. In the Bay Area, one in five adults are at risk of hunger and nearly 40 percent of those seeking food come from a household with at least one working adult.

More information on the demand for food in the Bay Area can be found at www.bayareahunger.org.